

**ACC**

Defense Secretary
reassures Airmen of
their value, contributions

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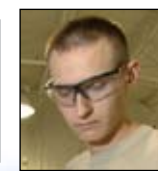
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Desert Lightning News

VOL. 2, No. 24

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JUNE 13, 2008

AN AEROTECH NEWS AND REVIEW PUBLICATION

Security Forces protect combat resources



Photo by Master Sgt. Demetrius Lester

Airman 1st Class Nicole Lopez, 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron flightline security, monitors the flightline at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan June 4. Airman Lopez is deployed from 355th Security Forces Squadron at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

By Master Sgt. Demetrius Lester
455th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — They're on the flightline, at entry control points, and along the perimeter. Sometimes, they're not seen at all.

They are Security Forces.

While the exact numbers are classified, members of the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron are located throughout Afghanistan helping fight the Global War on Terror.

They provide flightline security and mission support, perform tactical security missions, secure aircraft, cargo and passengers with the Fly Away Security Teams — the largest in Central Command's area of responsibility.

"We limit the enemies' resources and capabilities by securing areas so our members and coalition forces can do their missions," said Capt. Pedro Jimenez, 455th ESFS operations officer deployed from the 824th Security Forces Squadron, Moody Air Force Base, Ga. "The enemies see a deterrent when they see us all over the place, so they don't damage aircraft, people or sabotage missions."

When a new team is brought together for any amount of time, it takes time to gel. But the members of 455th ESFS, who are deployed from various locations for six-month rotations, make it happen without hesitation because everyone understands their respective role in supporting the Global War on Terror.

"We are essentially protecting over \$3 billion worth of combat assets," said Master Sgt. Donnie Bolton, 455th ESFS operations superintendent deployed from the 824th Security Forces Squadron. These assets are essential to the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing's mission of providing expeditionary combat operations and expeditionary combat support to U.S. and Coalition forces operating in Afghanistan.

While vulnerable to mortar and rocket attacks, as well as Improvised Explosive Devices and indirect fire, not one team member hesitates to do their job knowing it's essential to effectively accomplishing the mission.

"By crippling the bad guys, which is our job, we protect the number one asset, the people who accomplish the mission of fighting terror and building peace for the people of Afghanistan," Sergeant Bolton said.

Troops take humanitarian mission to Peru

By Tech. Sgt. Kerry Jackson
Task Force New Horizons-Peru
Public Affairs

HUAMANGA, Peru (AFPN) — Air Force, Army, Marine and Navy servicemembers arrived here June 1 to kick off New Horizons Peru 2008, a U.S. Southern Command, sponsored humanitarian event that will benefit thousands of Peruvians in the Ayacucho area.

One hundred and thirty-nine members traveled to Ayacucho, an Andean region located

in Southern Peru, to join task force members who arrived late April and May, to establish the base camp located outside of Huamanga, Peru.

The humanitarian mission, scheduled to run through Aug. 31, is an opportunity for the more than 990 U.S. servicemembers and their Peruvian counterparts to assist underprivileged Peruvian communities with expert medical care and robust construction projects while strengthening the bonds of friendship through teamwork and mutual respect.

SECDEF visits ACC

Discussion includes leadership changes, praise for Airmen

By Master Sgt. Cindy Dorfner
Air Combat Command Public Affairs

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (ACCNS) — During a visit to Air Combat Command Monday, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates reassured Airmen of their value and contributions, and presented a way ahead to ease wartime strain.

In describing the Air Force's sometimes unacknowledged efforts in the war on terror, he said he realized the costs of war and the strain on the force is a reality for Airmen and their families, and that he's working to ease the burden.

"Since September 11th, the Air Force has flown more than 1 million missions — ranging from lift to medevac to close-air support — including tens of thousands of sorties flown over America's skies to protect our homeland, many out of this base. Your contributions have made a lifesaving difference to those fighting on the ground," he said. "Put simply, without your contributions in the skies, and in many cases on the ground, America's war effort would simply grind to a halt."

In response to the burden of being forward deployed and at war for more than 17 years, he said he's immediately stopping personnel cuts in the

Air Force.

The announcement and visit came just four days after Secretary Gates accepted the resignations of Michael W. Wynne, secretary of the Air Force, and Gen. T. Michael Moseley, Air Force chief of staff.

Secretary Gates told the nearly 400 Airmen in attendance at the base theater, that he wanted to visit Langley, as well as Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., and Scott Air Force Base, Ill., to address the leadership changes and related issues "head on" and to explain his decision in more detail.

He said there has been "no shortage of speculation" regarding the change in leadership, mostly whether there were reasons beyond those he mentioned June 5. Those reasons dealt with leadership failures associated with control of nuclear weapons and equipment, he said.

The secretary said the Air Force has lost focus on the sensitive mission of the protection and safety of its nuclear arsenal. He noted a "serious decline over at least a decade in the Air Force's nuclear mission focus and performance, resulting in a degradation of the authority, standards of excellence and technical competency of the Air Force's nuclear mission."

The internal report documenting the service's

problems regarding the nuclear arsenal was not the "last straw" for Secretary Wynne and General Moseley, Secretary Gates said. He added that while he and Air Force leadership have had disagreements, he has also disagreed with the other service chiefs.

"It is important to establish up front that, were it not for the findings of (the internal report) regarding systemic problems and weaknesses in our nuclear weapons program, the leadership changes would not have taken place," he said.

Secretary Gates said the Air Force must refocus on its nuclear mission.

"Our policy is clear: We will ensure the complete physical control of nuclear weapons and we will properly handle their associated components at all times," he said. "It is a tremendous responsibility — one we must not and will never take lightly."

Today, Secretary Gates asked the President to nominate Michael Donley, currently the Defense Department's director of administration and management, as secretary of the Air Force, and Gen. Norton Schwartz, currently commander of U.S. Transportation Command, as Air Force chief of staff. Mr. Donley served as the Air Force's top finance officer from 1989 to 1993 and then was the



Photo by Senior Airman Barry Loo

Audience members look on as U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates speaks at the Langley Air Force Base base theatre Monday. Secretary Gates spoke about the transition to new Air Force leadership after the resignations of Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. T. Michael Mosley and Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne. "Embrace accountability in all you do," Secretary Gates said.

From PERU Page 1



Photo by Tech Sgt. Kerry Jackson

U.S. Airmen assigned to Task Force New Horizon Peru 2008, stack cement blocks to begin the construction of a clinic in Yanama, Peru in support of the humanitarian efforts.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Tracie Forte

U.S. Marine Staff Sgt. Todd Bowers and Sgt. Alan Parvis, civil affairs specialists with the 4th Civil Affairs Group at Anacostia Naval Annex, District of Columbia, explore the water line built by the people of Yanama, Peru during a visit to the construction site for a school being built in support of New Horizons.

"Our team has a lot of energy and enthusiasm, and they feel privileged to support this program alongside our Peruvian partners," said Maj. Matt Joganich, the Task Force New Horizons-Peru commander. "They understand the quality-of-life value of the construction and medical projects, but they are really excited to make friendships with the people of Peru."

The task force is scheduled to construct two schools, three clinics and two water wells. Each new clinic will have the capacity to serve 5,000 Peruvians, and the new schools will have the capacity to seat 120 students. Each new well drilled will provide fresh water for approximately 700 Peruvian citizens.

More than 15,000 Peruvians are expected to be cared for by three military medical teams, who will perform three separate medical missions. The teams will offer dentistry, dermatology, gynecology, internal medicine, optometry and pediatrics.

The New Horizons project will cost approximately \$12 million dollars; including planning, transportation and logistics costs. Three million dollars will be spent on local Peruvian contractors, construction materials, food and other expenses. Additionally, engineers, doctors, nurses and other support personnel will perform 240,000 man hours to support the humanitarian mission.

The 820th RED HORSE Squadron will lead this project with the help of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps, who will contribute their skills in construction, base support and medical operations.

Peruvian Army Col. Denys Diaz, Director of Technical and International Cooperation and Director to the Development of Assistance, has been a major advocate for this partnered effort.

"I am looking forward to many more opportunities to work with U.S. again in the future," said Colonel Diaz. "Their generosity is well received."

New Horizon projects are the physical manifestation of U.S. SOUTHCOM's commitment to enhancing cooperation with the people of Peru and partner nations in Latin America and the Caribbean. Seven additional New Horizons exercises are scheduled to take place this year in Honduras, Trinidad & Tobago, Suriname, Belize, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Panama.



Photo by Tech Sgt. Kerry Jackson

Staff Sgt. Brandt Higley and other U.S. Airmen assigned to Task Force New Horizon Peru 2008 greet Peruvian children before beginning construction of a clinic in Yanama, Peru in support of New Horizons Peru 2008, a humanitarian event that benefits thousands of Peruvians. Nearly 300 members from the U.S. Air Force, Army, Marines and Navy came together to provide Peruvians with new schools, clinics and water wells.



Photo by Tech Sgt. Kerry Jackson

U.S. Airmen assigned to Task Force New Horizon Peru 2008 stack cement blocks to begin the construction of a clinic in Yanama, Peru in support of New Horizons Peru 2008

IDEA program yields prize of \$10,000 for D-M Airman

By Senior Airman Melissa Copeland
355th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

An original approach to the way overhauled combustion frames are shipped to Davis-Monthan from depot departments, garnered a jet-engine mechanic a \$10,000 prize by means of the Innovative Development through Employee Awareness (IDEA) Program.

Tech. Sgt. Julie Jewett, of the 355th Component Maintenance Squadron, submitted her design via the IDEA program in February of 2007, after receiving numerous combustion frames with costly shipping damage. Re-work was necessary to categorize the frames as serviceable.

"I was very excited," Sergeant Jewett said. "I didn't think the idea was going to be rewarded with any monetary award, but was very surprised when I was notified of the approval notice and monetary value."

Sergeant Jewett's idea of creating a more sturdy and durable shipping container for the frames will save the Air

Force about \$41,000 per engine and an overall \$200,000 during the first year of implementation.

"I was in the position of a supply liaison at the time; I found that there were several combustion frames arriving with damage," she said. "This caused the frames to be shipped back to depot for repair and to be sent out, once again, to the customer. I did a little research and came up with an idea of why we can't repackage the frames to prevent the damage. After I did the research, I was asked by a co-worker, at the time, 'Why don't you submit the idea?' I wasn't sure about the idea or results, but inputted the idea into the system."

The IDEA program serves as an incentive program that promotes process improvement and/or resource savings. Finding a better way may involve streamlining a process, saving purchase costs, improving morale or enhancing safety.

"It's the Air Force's way of soliciting ideas to save time, money and lives," said Staff Sgt. Ian Reeves, 355th Mission Support Squadron base IDEA program



Photo by Airman 1st Class Noah R. Johnson

Maj. Peter Lommen, 355th Component Maintenance Squadron commander, presents Tech. Sgt. Julie Jewett a check for \$10,000 for her contributions to the Air Force through the Innovative Development through Employee Awareness (IDEA) program at Davis-Monthan June 3.

manager.

All active-duty Air Force members, civilian and contract employees are encouraged to share

their ideas.

For more information about the program, call Sergeant Reeves at 228-4332

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Final record scan moves AFPC closer to total virtual service

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — Blanca Rubio, a contract scanning team leader at the Air Force Personnel Center here, performed an electronic scan of the Air Force's last paper unit personnel record June 3.

This was an important digital milestone because it completed the paper conversion to a Web-based, around-the-clock "virtual service center" located at the virtual Military Personnel Flight.

"This is significant because unit personnel records for active-duty members will no longer be physically located at the military personnel flights," said Sharon Hogue, chief of AFPC's Master Personnel Records Branch.

"Instead of Airmen standing in line and depending on others to do updates, they can now access their records online from their desks at their convenience," she said. "Additionally, this major accomplishment is an enabler for future transformation initiatives like automated boards and assignment processing."

The paper-to-electronic records transition is part of the Air Force's ongoing commitment to personnel services delivery transformation.

"Instead of Airmen standing in line and depending on others to do updates, they can now access their records online from their desks at their convenience."

— Sharon Hogue,
Chief of AFPC's Master Personnel Records Branch

Since September 2006, AFPC specialists have scanned about 325,000 records that were shipped to the branch from every active-duty base in the Air Force. Each record was then scanned into the Automated Records Management System, which indexed them through the identifying data such as name, date, Social Security number and document type.

"Coding the records this way makes it easier to retrieve them later if needed," said John Sabo, the branch's quality assurance chief.

"Getting to this point has been a challenging base-by-base process, but it's great to see that our efforts have paid off."

Each unit personnel record group, or UPRG, contains about 33 documents and includes all personnel information that cover an Airman's career, such as citations, enlistment papers, promotion certificates and education records.

"Depending on its complexity, each record takes about 3-5 minutes to scan," said Lezley Gonzalez, one of a 70-person team working the record scanning project. "Even though we use high-end scanners, it has been a manual, document-by-document process."

That's about 10,500,000 total documents.

"While this is a significant milestone, there is still much work to be done," said Ms. Rubio. "We will continue to look for ways to streamline our processes and improve customer service. Serving our Airmen in the most efficient and effective way technology will allow is both an ongoing and evolutionary effort."

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First Lady visits troops in Afghanistan

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Mark Swart
Combined Joint Task Force Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan – First lady Laura Bush visited troops here Monday during a brief stop on her third trip to Afghanistan, giving words of praise and encouragement to service-members for their efforts and results.

“From overseeing hospitals to responding to [improvised explosive devices], your efforts are critical to our mission in Afghanistan,” Mrs. Bush said. “On behalf of President Bush and a grateful nation, thank you very much for your service to the United States of America. Every day, you risk your lives to protect the freedom that we hold so dear.”

She spoke to a crowd of several hundred in a large hangar and shared a few observations about the signs of progress that she had seen in Afghanistan throughout the day.

“As you go about your daily duties, you are bringing opportunity and security to the people of Afghanistan,” she said.

The first lady made a number of stops during her day-long visit to Bamyan province, Kabul and Bagram Air Base.

In Bamyan, Bush visited a police training center, where she met a female police trainee. The trainee told Bush that seeing Bamyan’s female governor had inspired her to try out for the police force. Bush added that the female police officer’s story, as well as her own observation of women studying the new Afghan constitution, were vivid reminders “of how far this nation has come since the Taliban’s reign.”

“Women were not even allowed in school, and there was no democratic constitution to be studied,” she said.

She also visited an orphanage in Bamyan and saw a road-construction project.



Photo by Pfc. Christina Sindors
First Lady Laura Bush poses with service members at Bagram Air Base. She visited the troops to thank them for their efforts in Afghanistan.

“All of these encouraging stories and all of these terrific things I saw today have been made possible by your efforts, and the efforts of the U.S. military,” Mrs. Bush said.

She then met with members of a New Zealand-led provincial reconstruction team, who greeted her with a traditional war dance, complete with spears and war paint. “I can only imagine what the Secret Service thought, but their performance truly highlights the international makeup of security forces here in Afghanistan.”

The first lady is en route to Paris later this week, where she said she plans to address an international conference for Afghanistan reconstruction. Before her closing remarks, she took the time to thank military families for their sacrifices in support of the Afghanistan mission.

“When you e-mail or call them tonight,” she told the Bagram servicemembers, “give them our love, and tell them I know what the burden of worry is on your family members, and I understand it, and I thank them.”

She then spent several minutes greeting, shaking hands and taking pictures with servicemembers before boarding a military aircraft to her next destination.

Army Maj. Gen. Jeffrey J. Schloesser, commander of Combined Joint Task Force 101 and of NATO International Security Assistance Force’s Regional Command East, described Mrs. Bush to the cheering crowd during her introduction as “Someone who has been an advocate to you and has been a friend of military families for a long time.”

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New Web-based notification for separation actions

By Tech. Sgt. Serena Coleman
355th Mission Support Group

Under the Personnel Services Delivery Transformation initiative, effective May 30, the Air Force Personnel Center is now the service center for all separation actions to include providing Airmen with their separation orders and DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty.

Using a new automated notification method, Airmen approaching their normal expiration term of service or mandatory date of separation will receive an e-mail reminding them to make a separation or reenlistment decision using the virtual Military Personnel

Flight, or vMPF.

An Airman's End of Time in Service occurs when he or she completes an enlistment contract or term of active service required by active duty orders.

Airmen who have completed their obligated term of service and are approaching their ETS or E-4 High Year tenure will receive an e-mail notification at 180 days prior to their date of separation, and every 30 days thereafter.

Airmen can access their vMPF on the AFPC secure Web site within six months of their DOS and select "Initiate my DOS Separation."

Once they receive confirmation, they com-

plete a vMPF initial separation briefing and pre-separation order worksheet, initiate a DD Form 214 and accomplish all base out-processing items, including unit and virtual out-processing checklists.


This final piece complements the voluntary separation applications previously released, and completes the centralization of all separation actions to the Air Force Personnel Center.

The MPF will continue to assist Airmen with the new Web-based notification process and provide commanders with training and assistance.

For more information, call the 24-hour Air Force Contact Center at (800) 616-3775.

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Peru: Task Force won't let



Photos by Airman 1st Class Tracie Forte

1st Lt. Mary Pekas, the public affairs officer assigned to Task Force New Horizons Peru, deployed from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, plays a game of soccer with 5-year-old Diego Omar Palomino Guerrero June 4, during her visit to I.E. Inicial CRL. Miguel Peñarrieta Elementary School in Los Cabitos, Peru.



U.S. Navy doctors Capt. Peter Amato (left), deployed from Westover Air Force Base, Mass., and Air Force Capt. Ronald Khoury, deployed from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. assists a patient with a severe cut wound June 6. The doctors are in the mountainous region of Ayacucho, Peru participating in New Horizons Peru 2008, a U.S. Southern Command-sponsored humanitarian mission set on improving the quality-of-life of underprivileged Peruvians.

By Tech. Sgt. Kerry Jackson
Task Force New Horizons

HUAMANGA, Peru — The air is a bit thin up here in the mountainous region of Ayacucho, Peru, where U.S. Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine servicemembers are participating in New Horizons — Peru 2008, a humanitarian mission set on improving the quality of life of underprivileged Peruvians.

The altitude in Huamanga is more than 9,000 feet above sea level; almost double the elevation of Denver, Colo. — not something many servicemembers are used to experiencing — especially while working at completing heavy-duty construction projects. Whenever military members are ill, service doctors are known for patching up military members prior to the next mission. High in the Andean mountains, their task is to keep them from losing their breath — literally.

As is common with most people traveling to extreme altitudes (approximately 8,000 feet and above), difficulty breathing, fatigue, and insomnia may develop. These are likely symptoms of acute mountain sickness, a pathological condition caused by exposure to low air pressure (usually outdoors at high altitudes).

More than 15 of the almost 300 servicemembers participating in New Horizons Peru have already experienced extreme AMS symptoms, enough to warrant medical attention.

To combat medical issues possibly preventing a successful mission, the task force brought a robust medical team ready for the challenges of working at extreme altitudes.

The New Horizons medical team has maintained a proactive approach to caring for task force personnel affected by AMS by watching for symptoms and encouraging commanders to practice the same vigilance. Doctors have also offered circumstantial considerations and tips to leader-

ship.

“An individual’s starting point, by the very nature of it, increases or decreases the possibility of developing altitude sickness,” said Navy Dr. (Captain) Peter Amato, the New Horizons — Peru senior medical doctor, and a reservist assigned to 4th Marine Air Wing at Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass. “Individuals traveling from the oxygen-rich environment of the California coast will have a greater chance of developing altitude sickness than someone traveling from the Rocky Mountains of Colorado where there is less oxygen at higher altitudes.”

To prevent, or reduce the impact of AMS the doctor prescribes, first and foremost, good health. Acute mountain sickness tends to exacerbate health problems and increases the possibility of someone developing the sickness. Someone with heart disease, or lung related health issues like asthma, or sleep apnea, and are having complications with their condition in their baseline environment should be screened by a doctor before traveling to extreme altitudes. Medics here in Peru have advised doctors at home stations that are sending personnel to support the New Horizons project to screen those individuals for extreme altitude suitability.

Physical fitness is another variable in determining whether or not an individual develops AMS as active servicemembers are better able to endure low air pressure environments. However, being fit does not make an individual invincible to extreme altitudes.

“We have a military member participating in the exercise who recently ran a 26-mile marathon, and in spite of the conditioning that requires, was so limited by the environmental effect of the altitude that she could only run one and half miles the first few days,” said Air Force Dr. (Capt). Ronald Khoury, Task Force New Horizons — Peru medical commander, assigned to Nellis Air

altitude bring them down



Tech. Sgt. Cari Gebbia, a paralegal deployed from the 12th Air Force Legal Office at Davis-Monthan receives a cup of juice from Rodrigo Guillermo Marquina Baluarte, 3, during a visit to I.E. Inicial CRL Miguel Peñarrieta Elementary School in Los Cabitos, Peru June 4. The location is occupied by U.S. military members who are supporting New Horizons Peru 2008. Nearly 300 members from the U.S. Air Force, Army, Marines and Navy came together to help provide Peruvians with new schools, clinics, and water wells.

Force Base, Nev. "So being fit does not protect people from the effects of the high altitude. However, if they slowly increase their activity levels, in due time they will likely return to normal activity levels."

The time needed for an individual to adjust to changing altitudes varies, but studies suggest one to two weeks according to Dr. Khoury. Slowly increasing your activities and paying attention to how your body responds to high altitude environments is the best defense, added the doctor. Therefore, New Horizons Peru medics are advising task force members to pace themselves and return to their physical training routines

gradually.

One of the treatments doctors have used for those patients who suffer from AMS has been pure oxygen or O2 consumption. This treatment required a dual effort from both the medical team, as well as the task force contracting officer who went to great lengths in locating oxygen tanks for the task force medical team.

"Master Sgt. Vincent Pfoer and Staff Sgt. Luis Cibrian (the New Horizons contracting team) were able to obtain a local source of medical grade oxygen, which solved a critical need given our environment," Dr. Khoury said. "That allowed us to return participants to

the mission, without requiring evacuation."

The medical team will be on the ground throughout the duration of the New Horizons event to care for the more than 990 servicemembers, rotating through the encampment, ensuring mission accomplishment regardless of the unique Peruvian environment.

Maj. Matt Joganich, Task Force New Horizons — Peru commander, quipped, "The altitude definitely presents challenges, but we won't let it get us down."

For more information about New Horizons — Peru visit: <https://www.12af.acc.af.mil/library/newhorizons.asp>



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Mission Spotlight:

Photos by Airman 1st Class Noah R. Johnson

"Everyday I come to work and am absolutely amazed at the superb quality, tremendous quantity and unrivaled variety of work accomplished by the men and women of the 355th Component Maintenance Squadron. We support every flying mission here at D-M, whether it is local flying or all of the D-M originating deployed operations in support of the Global War on Terror. Beyond this traditional maintenance support, our Precision Measurement Equipment Laboratory ensures that every measurement device within the Wing meets standards and is ready to accomplish every mission on the base. I am truly honored to be the Falcon commander, and look forward to the continued success of these amazing professionals."

— Maj. Peter D. Lommen
355th Component Maintenance Squadron commander

Mission

Combat-ready warfighters providing America and its Allies world-class maintenance support, above all.

Recent Accomplishments

- 2007 355th Maintenance Group Desert Lightning Maintainer of the Month Airman Category six winners
- 2007 355th MXG Desert Lightning Maintainer of the Month NCO Category six winners
- 2007 355th MXG Desert Lightning Maintainer of the Month SNCO Category four winners
- 2007 355th MXG Annual Award winners in three categories
- 2007 355th Fighter Wing Annual Award winner Airman category
- 2007 Team D-M and 355th FW Airman of the Quarter
- 2007 Air Combat Command winners in two categories; Safety and Weapons Safety
- 2007 355th MXG winner Mobility Work Center of the Month for February
- 2008 355th MXG Desert Lightning Maintainer of the Month winner for February
- 2008 Air Force Association Work Center of the Month for March
- 2008 Team D-M and 355th FW Company Grade Officer of the Quarter
- Falcons deployed for 45 consecutive months — four concurrent operations/no downtime

Members

The 355th Component Maintenance Squadron is comprised of 291 active duty and eight civilians supporting eight flying squadrons.

Vision Statement

The 355th Component Maintenance Squadron are continuously evolving warfighters destroying America's enemies



Tech. Sgt. Stephen Reesman, 355th Component Maintenance Squadron Test, Measurement Diagnostic Equipment Flight, calibrates the alignment on a heads up display and Boresight at Davis-Monthan May 21. This Hud and Boresight will be used to align the Hud on F-16s in support of the 162nd Fighter Wing

355th Component Maintenance Squadron



Airman 1st Class Kenneth Broyant Jr., 355th Component Maintenance Squadron Propulsion Flight, renews the safety wire for a cannon plug on an A-10 engine here May 21. Airman Broyant was preparing the engine for final inspection to return it to serviceability.



Senior Airman Will Gouger, 355th Component Maintenance Squadron Hydraulics Flight, places safety wire on C-130 brake housing at Davis-Monthan May 21.



Falcons

Airman 1st Class Kenneth Broyant Jr., (bottom front) and Airman 1st Class Benjamin Edwards, 355th Component Maintenance Squadron Propulsion Flight, prepare an A-10 engine for final inspection to return it to serviceability here May 21.

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Saturday
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Sunday
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(PG) • 2 p.m.

Admission is for those with base access and is \$3.25 for adults, \$2 for children 11 years and younger and for Sunday showing. Call 228-5694 for movie theater listings.

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KC-135 retires

Manny Vasquez, a technician with the 578th Storage and Disposal Squadron, applies vinyl tape to crevices, access panels and the canopy/fuselage gap, to an Air Force KC-135 E model Stratotanker, at the 309th Aerospace and Regeneration Group at Davis-Monthan, in preparation for long-term storage. The preservation team places aluminized-cloth material, called barrier paper, over larger openings such as engine inlets and exhausts after inserting desiccant packs to remove humidity. The 50-year-old aircraft was delivered to the group for long-term storage at the 2,600-acre facility after serving with the 151st Air Refueling Wing, Utah Air National Guard for more than 20 years.



Photo by Master Sgt. Burke Baker



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Retiree & Veteran

NEWS

FOR RETIREES, VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Standing tall for Old Glory

By retired Brig. Gen. Keith Connolly
Director of Retired Affairs

Title 4, U.S. Code Section 9 has been amended by the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2008 to read in part: ***"All persons present in uniform should render a military salute when the National Anthem is played, or the Flag is paraded in review! Members of the Armed Forces and Veterans who are present, but not in uni-***

form MAY render the military salute."

With the recent regulation change retirees are now given the option of rendering the military salute, in lieu of placing their hand over their heart, during ceremonies involving our Flag or the

The key word here is "may" since the ruling is optional not mandatory. Nevertheless, a salute by the retiree not only shows respect for the flag, but signifies that they have served our country.

At Military Events, the Military Commander will determine whether saluting is appropriate or not, depending on whether the event is in- or outdoors.

The bottom line is that, the retiree now has the option of saluting, if appropriate.

I'm hopeful that all retirees will consider saluting the next time Old Glory passes by, or the National Anthem is played.

Respect is a national treasure. Let's pass it on to the younger generation.

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Critical days of summer

By Damian Rueda
355th Civil Engineering Squadron

Electricity and water are consumed at much higher rates during the summer than in any other times of the year. Although we cannot eliminate these bills, we can all contribute to reducing utilities costs.

At work, the most energy-intensive activity in most facilities, especially office buildings, is air conditioning.

Following the temperature setpoint policy of 76 degrees and turning off or setting back (setpoint of 84 degrees) cooling equipment during non-duty hours, will help to significantly save energy and cost.

Making sure exterior doors and windows are closed will help keep hot, outside air where it belongs.

The next most intensive electrical load in most buildings is lighting.

There are several simple ways to reduce energy use, due to lighting.

First, turn off all lights in unoccupied areas. In occupied areas, turn off all lights where sunlight is available.

Next, provide minimal lighting in common areas, like hallways and break rooms that are scarcely occu-

pied, but may require some lighting.

In addition, always turn off office and conference room lights (or all interior lights) at the end of the work day.

And, finally, make sure all exterior lights are off during the day.

At home, you can use these same tips and save energy from lights and air conditioning.

A programmable thermostat will help save cost and energy by automatically turning off (or setting back) air conditioning equipment when no one is home.

Use hot water only when necessary, to reduce water heater operation.

Make sure exterior doors and windows are well-sealed to prevent heat infiltration. Wearing light, comfortable clothes and using ceiling or area fans will help reduce temperatures.

Saving energy and reducing utilities bills can be as simple as changing your mindset. Using energy efficient products, such as compact fluorescent lights, will also help to reduce energy bills.

For more information, e-mail the D-M Energy Team at DMEnergy@dm.af.mil or with for energy conservation questions, comments or suggestions.



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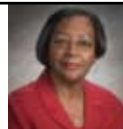


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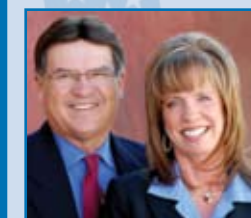
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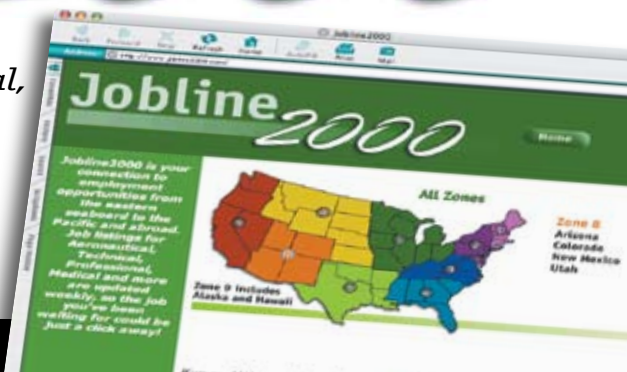
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